

## **REMARKS**

Applicants have cancelled claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 and have amended claims 1, 5, 12, and 16 as set forth above. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicants note with appreciation the Office's indication that claims 37, 41-44, 48-50 are allowed over the prior art of record and that claims 4-7 and 15-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested

The Office has rejected claims 1, 3, 10-12, 14, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,292,212 to Zigadlo et al. (Zigaldo) in view of US Patent No. 5,132,802 to Osthues et al. (Osthues) and claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zigadlo in view of Osthues and further in view of US Patent No. 6,256,067 to Yamada (Yamada). Additionally, the Office has objected to claims 4-7 and 15-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to substantially incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 4 which the Office indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record. Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 12 to substantially incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 14 and 15 which the Office indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record. Further, Applicants have cancelled dependent claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 and have amended the dependencies of claims 5 and 16. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections and objections.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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